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Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director MEMORANDUM FOR:

of Central Intelligence

THROUGH

Robert M. Gates

Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM

SOVA Program Staff

SUBJECT

Reported Soviet Use of Forced Labor on Pipeline

In response to the memorandum of 11 August from Walter Raymond, Jr. of the NSC Staff, the DDI has received a report concerning the occasional use by the Soviets of paroled common prisoners in the construction of gas pipeline compressor stations. political prisoners are not used because they are not eligible for parole. we would have presumed from past Soviet practice, parolees are used largely as manual labor or service personnel. The parolees reportedly are paid the same wages as free workers, but are not allowed to leave the workers' living compound without permission; thus, paroled prisoners are not employed in pipelaying, which requires mobile crews. It is also likely that the Soviets, plagued by too few workers, might use some of the 2 million people now in forced labor camps, as well as parolees, to speed completion of important pipeline construction projects. While it is possible that the Soviets would consider using even political prisoners on a project of such urgent priority as the Siberian export pipeline, the international political risks involved and the negligible contribution such workers--even skilled--could render would make Moscow wary of doing so.

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tasked with	providing additions	l intelligence	on this questi	on. DDO's
	si	milarly is bein	g asked to pur	sue the matter